APPENDIX I.

[Vide answer to starred questions No. 834 asked by Sri V. K. Kothandaraman and others at the meeting of the Legislative Assembly held on 15th March 1961, page 459 supra.]

Statement of damage caused by the heavy rains in November 1960, and the relief measures undertaken in the districts in the State.

I. THANJAVUR DISTRICT.

General.—The entire district of Thanjavur and more particularly the coastal taluks experienced continuous and heavy rains from 8th to 18th November 1960 and the quantum of rainfall recorded during the period was quite unprecedented compared to the rainfall figures for the past several years. The Eastern taluks of Sirkali, Mayuram, Nannilam, Nagapattinam and Tiruthuraipundi were the worst affected.

Breaches in rivers and taluks.—Precautionary measures were being taken to avert major breaches. Breaches occurred only in small rivers and channels, viz., in the Sullar in Papanasam taluk, Uppanar and Ayyavaiyanar in Sirkali taluk, Ayyavaiyar in Mayuram taluk, Vettar, Vellayar and Odambogiyar in Nannilam taluk and Nagapattinam taluk.

Damage to houses.—Large number of mudwalls of thatched houses of the poor and in Harijan colonies collapsed.

Damage to crops.—Most of the fields were under water for a period of 7 or 8 days resulting in the total loss of crops in some of the tail-end villages. The area affected is estimated at 41,000 acres.

Loss of life.—There was no loss of human life.

Relief measures—(i) *Gruel Centres.*—The persons rendered homeless were at first sheltered in schools, choultries, temples and other public institutions. Gruel centres were opened in 187 places of which 157 were run by the Government and 30 by non-official agencies. A sum of Rs. 40,000 was allotted for this purpose.

(ii) *Grants for reconstructing damdged houses.*—On account of the floods 8,188 houses were totally damaged and 19,602 houses were partially damaged. A sum of Rs. 3,35,000 was distributed by way of cash grant at the rate of Rs. 15 as the average grant per house partly damaged and Rs. 30 for a totally damaged house. Handloom clothes to the value of Rs. 10,000 were purchased and distributed in the taluks of Sirkali, Mayuram, Nannilam, Nagapattinam and Tiruthuraipundi for supply to the affected people. In order to ensure expeditious disbursement of cash relief, the Collector formed convenient zones and each zone was placed in charge of a Gazetted Officer.

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(iii) *Fair Price Shops.*—Twenty-five Fair Price Shops were opened in different places under the management of the T.C.M.F., Ltd., Thiruvarur and the Board of Revenue allotted 6,000 bags of rice from the Central Godown, Tiruchirappalli for supply through these shops.

(iv) *Supply of milk powder.*—Forty-five bags of corn flour and 335 cartons of milk powder were also distributed to the affected persons through the Tahsildars concerned.

(v) *Relief to damaged crops.*—The Government placed a sum of Rs. 2·5 lakhs at the disposal of the Deputy Director of Agriculture, Thanjavur for procurement of paddy seeds and for their sale to the affected ryots. In order to rejuvenate the affected paddy crops, arrangements were made for the diversion of 4,000 tons of ammonium sulphate. The Government also allotted a sum of Rs. 3 lakhs out of the Intensive Manuring Scheme loans for the supply of seeds, chemical manure, pesticides and for cultivation expenses on credit. It was arranged to distribute on the spot the seeds required by an officer of the Agricultural Department. Fertilizer required was also given on credit on production of a permit to be given by the Special Deputy Tahsildar. Facilities to grant a second loan under Intensive Manuring Scheme to the same person by relaxing the rules under the Intensive Manuring Scheme is under consideration.

II. COIMBATORE DISTRICT.

General.—The extent of damages caused due to heavy rains in Coimbatore district was very slight.

Breaches in rivers and tanks.—The masonry portion of the Dalavaipatnam anicut in the Amaravathi river breached and action to close the breach by forming ring bunds was taken immediately. In the Velandipalayam Pallam, a breach occurred. The jungle stream near Veerapandy village of Coimbatore taluk changed its course and damaged some Harijan huts.

Damage to crops.—The heavy inflow of water from Vadavalli Pallam filled the Komarasamy tank which overflowed. As a result about 100 acres of wet lands were submerged under water, but there was no damage to crops.

Loss of life.—There was no loss of human life or cattle.

Relief measures.—Fifteen huts in the Harijan Colony at Krishnapuram, hamlet of Ponnivadai, and five huts in the Harijan Colony at Ellapalayam, hamlet of Erasinampalayam of Dharapuram taluk were washed away by floods and compensation was paid to all the victims at the rate of Rs. 40 each.

III. CHINGLEPUT DISTRICT.

General.—The entire district of Chingleput was affected. Madurantakam and Ponneri taluks incurred heavy damages due to breaches of a number of major and minor irrigation tanks.

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Breaches in rivers and tanks and roads.—The Araniar and Kortaliyar rivers in Ponneri taluk breached in spite of flood banks. Minor irrigation tanks in the taluks of Kancheepuram, Chingleput, Madurantakam, Saidapet, Sriperumbudur, Tiruvallur, Ponneri, Pennalurpet, Tiruttani, Gummudipoondi and Pallipet breached. The engineering and revenue staff took immediate action to close the breaches by mud bunds. A good number of vanchis in Edakanod village in Madurantakam taluk were badly affected. Along with the vanchis the lands adjoining them were silted up. Steps were taken to desilt the vanchis and the areas affected. Roads were also damaged and sanction for the allotment of funds for the purpose is under consideration.

Damage to houses.—A large number of huts were damaged in Madurantakam, Kancheepuram, Saidapet, Sriperumbudur, Ponneri, Tiruvallur, Tirutani, Pennalurpet and Gummudipoondi taluks. The total number of houses so damaged came to 14,327.

Damage to crops.—In Ponneri and Madurantakam taluks about 2,000 acres were affected by floods and sand accretion.

Loss of life.—There was no loss of human life.

Relief measures.—Nineteen fair price shops were opened in the taluks of Madurantakam, Uttiramerur, Saidapet, Sriperumbudur and Ponneri and five bags of rice per shop per day are being issued.

Grants for reconstructing damaged houses.—Rs. 1,83,379 has been spent in disbursement of cash grants sanctioned out of Rs. 2·5 lakhs for granting cash relief to the people affected by floods. Arrangements have also been made for the procurement of and sale of 200 bags of paddy seeds of short duration varieties at full cost to the ryots in the flood affected areas. Adequate steps have also been taken for the supply of chemical fertilizers for the affected and submerged crops.

IV. MADURAI DISTRICT.

General.—Due to the heavy rains, almost all the divisions were affected.

Breaches in rivers and tanks and roads.—The heavy inflow of the water resulted in the occurrence of a breach in the Madakulam tank and it was closed on 7th November 1960 by the Public Works Department by forming ring-bunds. On account of heavy rains in the catchment area above the Vaigai Reservoir there was heavy discharge from the Vaigai Reservoir, as well as from Peranai regulator. Due to heavy floods in the river Kodavanar, a breach occurred in the Kamarajasagar Reservoir in Dindigul taluk where the bund was not fully formed. The extent of the damage was estimated at Rs. 50,000. Minor damages to irrigation sources by breaches occurred in the taluks of Melur, Thirumangalam, Periyakulam, Nilakkottai, Dindigul and Palni. The damages to roads were slight and they were repaired immediately.

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Damage to houses.—As a result of the breach in the Madakulam tank 1,651 huts mostly on poramboke lands in low-lying areas in Madurai town were water-logged and damaged. The closing of the breach was estimated to cost Rs. 20,000. The heavy-floods in Vaigai and the continuous rains resulted in damage to 1,019 huts in the low-lying areas of Madurai town close to the river bank. About 382 houses in the taluks of Madurai, Periyakulam, Nilakottai, Dindigul and Palni were damaged.

Damage to crops.—The crop area affected by Madakulam breach was 31 acres and 33 cents in the villages of Kokkulappi, Virattipathur and Ponneri and these lands were reported to have been silted up on account of the breach. The loss sustained was estimated to be Rs. 2,000. About 12 acres of betel garden in Batlagundu village and 300 acres of food crops in Reddiapatti, hamlet of Kombaipatti were affected by the floods.

Loss of life.—In Alinagaram village of Periyakulam taluk, all the three members of a family living in a mud-walled thatched house lost their lives on account of the wall of the adjoining inhabited house crashing on their hut. Two goats, two calves and 12 fowls in Ammapatti, hamlet of Mottanuthu village of Periyakulam taluk, one buffalo in Nadakottai village of Nilakottai taluk and one calf in Ayyankottai of Dindigul taluk were either lost or washed away by the floods.

Relief measures.—Prompt steps to shift the people affected by the floods to places of safety and to shelter them in schools and other public places were undertaken. The Madurai Municipality, philanthropic people and institutions undertook the responsibility of feeding the victims of the floods. A cash grant of Rs. 25,115 was granted for the reconstruction of huts damaged by the breaches in Madakulam tank. A cash grant of Rs. 15,505 was given for construction of houses affected by the Vaigai floods. Donations from generous people resulted in the collection of a sum of Rs. 17,165.81 upto 11th December 1960. Such donation along with Government aid may be utilized for some useful scheme of permanent rehabilitation of the hut-dwellers on poramboke lands on some suitable high level lands. The collector is also considering a scheme for preventing inundation of low-level habitations in town limits close to the river bank by raising the level of such land by dumping river sand or other materials. In all the affected places, the Tahsildars and Revenue Divisional Officers have taken prompt action for sanction of cash relief to the affected people.

Damage to railway track.—As a result of the breaches in the Madakulam tank, water was flowing over the railway track between Madurai and Pasumalai for a short duration and the railway traffic was stopped for a day and the line was restored quickly. Similar dislocation in the railway track north of Sholavandan was also restored.

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V. RAMANATHAPURAM DISTRICT.

General.—The damage caused by the heavy rains was more pronounced in Sivaganga, Paramakudi and Ramanathapuram taluks in Ramanathapuram district. The dangerous floods in Vaigai river caused more damages than the widespread rains in the district, but the heavy rains were clearly more beneficial than injurious.

Breaches in rivers and tanks.—A total number of 438 tanks, both major and minor, were affected either due to breaches or due to cutting open to avoid major damages. The approximate cost of restoring these tanks will come to about Rs. 2,76,715. Breach closing work is already under progress and a sum of rupees one lakh has been sanctioned for flood repairs. Ring-bunding has been completed in all the tanks.

Damage to crops.—Crops both wet and dry to an extent of 9,085 acres have been affected and since the wet crops were only in the transplanting stage, the entire area is now being replanted.

Damages to houses.—A total number of 872 houses have been affected. At Manaloor, the additional building of Jothi Gurukulam Orphanage collapsed.

Damage to roads.—A total number of 93 Government, District Board and Security Measure roads were affected and the approximate cost of restoration comes to Rs. 6,80,400. Immediate action was taken to resume traffic on all routes where the service was suspended temporarily. Proposals for allotment of funds are under consideration.

Damage to life.—Due to collapse of walls, six persons lost their lives. Immediately cash doles were given and the Collector is considering proposals for granting substantial relief to the bereaved families.

Relief measures.—The families who were marooned in the Sivanandapuram Harijan colony in Paramakudy town due to overflow of water from Vendoni Supply channel were evacuated and accommodated in the local shandy and cash doles were given to each family. The low-lying areas at Tiruppuvanam which was threatened by the floods in the River Vaigai were shifted and supplied with food packets. The Local Fund Dispensary, at Dhanushkodi, inundated by floods was shifted immediately to the Post and Telegraphs buildings. Cash relief to the extent of Rs. 17,760 was granted to the affected families. Arrangements have also been made for the procurement and sale of 750 bags of paddy seeds of short duration varieties at half cost to the ryots in the flood-affected areas. Adequate steps have also been taken for the supply of chemical fertilizers to the affected and submerged crops.

VI. TIRUCHIRAPPALLI DISTRICT.

In Tiruchirappalli district, the heavy rains did not cause any serious damage. Jayankondam talu kexperienced heavy rains and though a number of tanks breached the damage was insignificant

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Though the water spread into the fields, no damage to standing crops was caused since most of the fields remained uncultivated. Nearly 200 houses were damaged and a sum of Rs. 13,000 was disbursed as cash relief to the victims.

On account of the rise in the level of water in the river Amaravathy, one girl was washed away and one girl in Elandagulam lost her life due to collapse of wall.

VII. THE NILGIRIS DISTRICT.

In the Nilgiris district, the Kota, hamlet at Aggal near Kotagiri was affected. Several fissures occurred in the land and some of the houses belonging to the Kotas developed cracks. The floor and walls in the school situated there developed also cracks. The Collector has addressed the Government Geologist to inspect the area for examining the question whether the area is safe or not.

VIII. KANYAKUMARI DISTRICT.

Kanyakumari district was not affected very much. There was no serious damage to irrigation system except minor slips to drainage course. One person died due to fall of the mud wall in his house in Nagercoil.

IX. MADRAS CITY.

The heavy rain inundated all the low-lying areas in the Madras City and the people affected were sheltered in the nearby Corporation and other schools. The number of huts damaged by floods came to 1,500. Large number of food packets were distributed freely to all the victims of floods for all days till the floods subsided in the low-lying areas. Milk powder was distributed by the City Police. Feeding arrangements were also undertaken by the Corporation authorities, congress organisations, philanthropic institutions and public-spirited individuals. Five persons lost their lives due to the collapse of walls.

2. On 20th November 1960 a severe gale hit the City and as a result, 7,606 huts were damaged and about 20,670 persons were rendered homeless. Several trees were uprooted and telephone poles and electricity posts were dislocated. Three persons died due to electric shock. Eighteen persons sustained injuries and the damage to property is estimated at Rs. 95,000. A sum of Rs. 1,50,000 has been sanctioned for the grant of cash relief to the affected people. Food packets at Government cost were also distributed.

X. SOUTH ARCOT DISTRICT.

The heavy rains from 12th to 17th November 1960, have resulted in floods in the rivers and in overflowing of tanks.

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Breaches in rivers and tanks.—Minor irrigation tanks in the taluks of Tindivanam, Villupuram, Cuddalore, Tirukoilur and Chidambaram breached. The North Rajan Channel and the Southern ring bund within the Vallampadugai village limit breached. The Puduvandi Odai in Gingee taluk was in spate and submerged standing crops. On account of heavy rains, traffic was interrupted in many places due to the erosion in the roads. Immediate action to form ring bunds and for restoration of traffic was taken. A diversion road from Cuddalore to Chidambaram was formed. In Chidambaram taluk, due to heavy inflow of water the level of water in Veeranam tank at Radha sluice and river Vadavar rose to dangerous points.

Damages to crops.—About 15,000 acres in Chidambaram taluk, and vast areas in Ginjee, Virdhachalam and Cuddalore taluks were affected by floods. Supply of paddy seeds at concessional rate for enabling the ryots to raise another crop was undertaken.

Damage to houses.—Large number of huts in the low-lying areas in several taluks collapsed in the district.

Liss of life.—On account of the heavy rains Palayam eri in Cuddalore taluk breached flooding the Thambipettai Odai which crosses the Cuddalore-Virdhachalam road and as a result the bus ground from Cuddalore purged in the odai floods where the culvert collapsed suddenly. Two persons lost their lives and 28 persons were injured. One child is stated to have died in Markanam village due to the collapse of a house.

Relief measures.—Gruel centres and fair price shops were opened in all the affected places and free feeding was continued for a number of days. A sum of Rs. 10,000 was sanctioned towards feeding charges for the affected people. In Chidambaram, Armed Reserve Police rendered necessary assistance. Cash grants to all the affected families were given by the Tahsildars and Revenue Divisional Officer. Public Works Department authorities took every step to restore traffic, by closing the breaches and by forming diversion roads. A sum of Rs. 7,107 has since been sanctioned towards cash relief to the people affected in Markanam area in Tindivanam taluk by floods. Arrangements have also been made for the procurement and sale of 2,000 bags of paddy seeds of short duration varieties to the ryots in the flood-affected area at half cost. Adequate steps have also been taken for the supply of chemical fertilisers to the affected and submerged crops.

XI. TIRUNELVELI DISTRICT.

In Tirunelveli district, among the areas affected by heavy rains, Tuticorin town and its suburbs are the worst.

Breaches in river and tanks.—The level of water in Puckle Channel rose very high and as the entire water had to pass through a small culvert across the road near the railway level crossing the water spread and rose to 4 to 5 feet. On account of this, all the low-lying areas were inundated. The heavy rain also resulted in